Bioinformatics Parks in A.P.

706. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bioinformatics Parks set up in the different States of the country particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh, during the last three years;

(b) The number of Bioinformatics Parks proposed to be set up in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2007-2008; and

(c) if so, the necessary steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. There are no Bioinformatics Parks set up in the different parts of the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no plan to set up such parks in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2007-2008.

Functioning of Scientific Research Organisations

†761. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scientific Research Organizations working under the Central Government in the country;

(b) the steps being taken by Government for promoting scientific research;

(c) the achievements of these Scientific Organisations; and

(d) the manner of assessment of the functioning of these organizations?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) According to the latest available official Directory of R&D Institutions, there are 707 Scientific Research Organisations in the country working under the Central Government.

(b) The Government have taken various measures for promoting scientific research in the country. These measures apart from higher allocation for scientific research from Plan to Plan include setting up of new institutions for science education and research, creation of centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas in academic and national institutes, induction of new and attractive fellowships, strengthening infrastructure for R&D in universities, encouraging public-private R&D partnerships, national awards for outstanding R&D etc.

(c) The Scientific Research Organisations are engaged in diverse S&T areas. Some of the recent significant achievements/initiatives of these scientific organizations include (1) Establishing major research facilities/centres of excellence in frontline areas of S&T; (2) Deployment of state-of-art seismology and geo-physical instruments in peninsular regions; (3) Launching of technology mission mode project in the area of bamboo applications; (4) Launching of Swarnajayanti Fellowship to recognize the work of outstanding young scientists and provide support in project mode with more flexibility; (5) Creation of funds

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for improvement of S&T infrastructure in academic and related institutions; (6) Establishment of national facilities and support to number of industries as collaborative research programmes under Drugs and Pharmaceuticals; (7) Development of satellites, launch vehicles and application in space research; (8) Development of missiles (Prithvi, Agni-II, etc.), tank (Arjun), pilotless target aircraft (Lakshya) etc. in the area of defence; (9) Self reliance in the areas of nuclear reactor and its entire associated fuel cycle; (10) Application of radiation technology in the areas of health care, agriculture, food preservation, industry and research, has resulted in the release of 22 improved varieties of seeds; (11) Self sufficiency in food production; (12) Identified potential molecules for the development of vaccines and diagnostic for infectious diseases; (13) Development of diagnostic kits for HIV, hepatitis, dengue, assessment of reproductive hormones, Japanese encephalitis, vaccines for leprosy, drug formulation for septic shock, plant tissue culture protocols, formulation of bio-fertilisers, high protein gene from Amaranthus and bioremediation technology for mine spoiled dumps and crude oil spillage; (14) Rice genome mapping; (15) Ginger processing; (16) Launched 21 Jai Vigyan National S&T Missions in the areas of development of new generation vaccines, bi-technology for herbal products development, coffee improvement and establishment of mirror sites for genomics etc; (17) Promote polar science and as a treaty obligation, scientific expedition to Antarctica were undertaken on an annual basis; (18) Archaeological discoveries at Cambay with artefacts dated 7000 to 8000 B.C. (19) Under the Drugs from Sea programme, identification of organisms possessing anti-diabetic, anti-diarrhoeal, anti-hyperlipidaemic, anti-anxiety, anti-cholesterol, anti-bacterial and larvicidal properties and isolation of compounds having interesting biological activity and novel chemical structure; (20) Design fabrication and air worthiness testing of 9-14 seater light transport aircraft and certification of the 2 seater trainer aircraft HANSA-3; (21) Environment friendly electric car; (22) Large number of technologies have been developed and commercialized in the fields of drugs and pharmaceuticals, food processing, leather processing products, construction materials and bio-medical devices, etc; (23) Formulation of a new Science and Technology Policy, 2003.

(d) Each scientific organization has its own system of assessment which includes Scientific Advisory Committee, High Power/Executive Committees and Governing bodies etc. for periodic assessment and monitoring of its functioning.

Developing and Marketing New Designs for Knitting and Hosiery Indsutry

762. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry taking adequate steps to develop and market new designs for the knitting and hosiery industry at Tiruppur as well as the weavers in Arani and Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) how much funds are allocated for this and how many young talents have been recruited in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANOGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has set up 4 Computer Aided Design Centres in Tamil Nadu to develop and market new designs for the powerlooms industry. The knitting and hosiery industry in Tripur is also availing these facilities. Computer Aided Design Centre at the Weavers' Service Centre in Kanchipuram caters to the need of the weavers of Arani, Kanchipuram and other areas. Apparel Training and Design Centres have also been